

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2020 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 134
Fiscal Note Number:	2
(H) Publish Date:	3/24/2020

Identifier: SB134-DHSS-HFIN-MS-3-23-2020
Title: MEDICAID COVERAGE OF LIC. COUNSELORS
Sponsor: WILSON
Requester: (H) FIN

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
Appropriation: Medicaid Services
Allocation: Medicaid Services
OMB Component Number: 3234

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2021 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2021 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2021	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services	55.9						
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits	3,254.4		3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	3,310.3	0.0	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	2,385.1		2,343.2	2,343.2	2,343.2	2,343.2	2,343.2
1003 GF/Match (UGF)	14.0						
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	911.2		911.2	911.2	911.2	911.2	911.2
Total	3,310.3	0.0	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4	3,254.4

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2020) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2021) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/21

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

This revised fiscal note is the same as the initial except changes GF/MH (1037) funding to UGF (1004) because the Mental Health (HB206) bill has passed.

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House Finance Committee
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House Finance Committee

Phone: (907)465-3789
Date: 03/23/2020

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FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

The bill allows licensed professional counselors (LPCs) to enroll and participate in the Medicaid program as individual billing providers, and receive Medicaid reimbursement for medically necessary services provided to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries outside of a clinic setting.

Total number of registered LPCs in Alaska: 717
 Percentage estimated to accept Medicaid patients: 20%
 Estimated LPCs accepting Medicaid patients: 143

Estimated number of patients seen per week by one counselor (one hour each): 20
 Percentage of patients estimated to be Medicaid eligible: 20%
 Estimated Medicaid patients seen per week by one counselor (one hour each): 4

Current individual psychotherapy hourly reimbursement for LPC: \$118.60

143 LPCs x 4 Medicaid patients/week x \$118.60/hr cost = \$67.8 estimated weekly incremental cost
 Estimated annual incremental cost of LPCs (48 working weeks): \$3,254.4

To implement this bill a modification of Medicaid Management Information System to add a new provider type and associated business rules would be required. The work would take an estimated 600 modification hours at a total cost of \$55.9 and would be completed by the system contractor. Adding this provider type would not require additional staff to maintain the system changes.